

Remarks

Applicants submit this Request for Continued Examination to file an Information Disclosure Statement for the above-identified patent application, which is submitted herewith. The present application was transferred to the Applicants' current practitioners nearly six months after the First Action issued from another practitioner that did not file an Information Disclosure Statement. Upon preparation of a response to the Final Action, we discovered that the Information Disclosure Statement was inadvertently not filed. At this time, a statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) is no longer appropriate, and, alternatively, an RCE is hereby submitted. Applicants sincerely apologize for any inconvenience to the Examiner.

In the Final Action mailed February 13, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4, for the reasons stated, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Klaassen. The Examiner also rejected Claims 3, 8 and 9, for the reasons stated, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klaassen in view of Townsend. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position with regard to Claims 1-4, 8 and 9. However, in order to best move the application toward allowance, Claims 1-4, 8 and 9 have been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to Claims 5-7 and 10-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, dependent Claims 5-7 and 10-14 are cancelled and re-presented as Claims 15-22 in rewritten form in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 15-22, as rewritten, distinguish over the references cited in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement and are believed in condition for allowance. By way of example, and without limitation to the scope of the pending claims, Claims 15, 18, 19, and 22 distinguish over the references by reciting an air booster pump which is in fluid communication with a head component and further comprising a filter; Claim 16 is distinguished over the references by reciting an air booster pump and a plurality of heads

having apertures for nozzles in fluid communication with the pump; and Claims 17 and 22 are distinguished from the references by reciting a plurality air booster pumps and a plurality of head components, with each head component in fluid communication with one of the air booster pumps.

Accordingly, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned by telephone if any issue remains. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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